

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3709
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1743

USOECD

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, SW, EEC, OECD
SUBJECT: COMMON MARKET ALLEGATIONS FERROCHROME DUMPING
BY SWEDEN

1. A REPORT IN SWEDISH DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF APRIL 30 QUOTED PURCHASING MANAGER PER-ERIK HELLSTROM OF AB FERRO-LEGERINGAR AS SAYING THAT HIS COMPANY "CAN IN NO WAY FIND THAT WE HAVE CAUSED ANY INSTANCE OF DUMPING AS REGARDS FERROCHROME." HELLSTROM WAS APPROACHED BY THE PAPER FOR COMMENT ON THE EC COMMISSION STUDY INTO ASSERTED EXPORTS OF FERROCHROME TO THE COMMON MARKET BY SWEDEN AND SOUTH AFRICA AT PRICES VARYING UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM 25 TO 50 PERCENT BELOW THOSE ON THEIR HOME MARKETS.

2. "AMONG OUR CHIEF CUSTOMERS ARE STEELWORKS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM," MR. HELLSTROM CONTINUED. "PRODUCTION OF THIS TYPE OF ALLOY HAS EXPANDED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS HAS PUT A LOT OF PRESSURE ON PRICES, WHICH SWEDEN HAS ALSO TRIED TO

BENEFIT FROM. THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THESE PRICE PRESSURES, THUS FINDING DEVELOPMENTS DISRUPTIVE. HENCE THE COMPLAINTS," HELLSTROM WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

3. FERROLEGERINGAR IS ONE OF TWO FIRMS IN SWEDEN EXPORTING FERROCHROME, THE OTHER BEING AIRCO ALLOYS AB. BOTH FIRMS ARE 100 PERCENT OWNED BY US CORPORATIONS. (FERROLEGERINGAR BY METALLURGY ALLOY CORP. OF NEW YORK AND AIRCO BY AIRCO INC. OF MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY.) SWEDISH EXPORTS OF FERROCHROME TO THE COMMON MARKET IN 1977 AMOUNTED TO SOMEWHAT MORE THAN 50,000 METRIC TONS, WORTH ABOUT 35 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. BOTH FERROLEGERINGAR AND AIRCO ALLOYS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED BY THE EC COMMISSION TO SUBMIT ANSWERS TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS BY MAY 3 AND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMISSION HEARING ON MAY 11.

5. MR. HELLSTROM TOLD THE PAPER: "WE DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN. WE WILL PROBABLY REACH A SOLUTION AFTER TALKS, AT LEAST AS FAR AS SWEDEN IS CONCERNED."

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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